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EMBASSY OF THE U.S.A., CAIRO-EGYPT.

MORNING PAPERS.

THURSDAY September 30th, 1948.

"America has not aided the Arab refugees in Palestine. A statement by a responsible Arab".

Under the above heading, Al Assas, Nokrashi Pasha's mouthpiece, writes: "A certain foreign language newspaper published recently an interview with a responsible official of the American Embassy in Cairo in which he enumerated the services rendered by the U.S.A. to the Arab refugees. The statement of the American official prompted our reporter in the Arab quarters to ask the persons concerned with this question about the truth of the matter. They assured him that Mr Marshall had expressed on behalf of the American government its sympathy for the refugees and declared that it would give them every help.

"Responsible Arabs state with emphasis that the refugees have not so far received any aid from the American government except the \$ 250,000 which the U.S. government had decided 4 months ago to send to the Jaffa and Haifa refugees. Only part of this sum reached the Middle East and it was used in meeting the expenses of the American Red Cross and for paying the salaries of its representatives in Palestine".

Arab Affairs.
The provisional Arab government
of Palestine.

Al Misri reports that King Abdullah has sent a letter to Azzam Pasha two days ago concerning the establishment of the new provisional Arab government of Palestine and that Azzam Pasha replied to it yesterday. The nature of the King's letter and the Pasha's reply is not divulged by the daily.

Asked by the daily if Iraq was contemplating the recognition of the new Arab government, Iraqi Prime Minister Muzahim Al Pachachi said that Iraq had not yet taken a decision and that she was going to weigh the advantages against the disadvantages of recognition before she took a decision.

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The Iraqi gentleman also told Al Ikhwan Al Muslimoun that if Egypt saw fit to recognize the new Arab government, Iraq would follow Egypt's example.

Al Misri asked the same gentleman if Iraq intended to remain neutral should a world war break out. The gentleman replied that this question will be discussed collectively by the Arab countries with a view to adopting an unanimous policy. "But I am not sure that we can remain neutral even if we wish to", added the Premier.

The Arab refugees question.

The Higher Council for aiding refugees met yesterday at the premises of the Red Crescent under the chairmanship of Soliman Azmy Pasha, reports Al Misri. The meeting was attended by representatives of Arab countries, the Arab League Secretariat, and health organisations.

Naguib Bey Abu Shad, Transjordan's representative at the Higher Council told Al Misri that the Council had decided to appeal to the International Committee for aiding the refugees and to the United Nations, to hasten to participate in helping the Arab refugees in the same way as they are helping at present Europe's refugees in the Middle East who are still receiving LE 8 monthly each from the United Nations.

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The extent of the help.

It has been agreed at the meeting to ascertain the extent of the help which International organisations will give Arab refugees so that the extent of Arab help to the Arab refugees may also be ascertained. Each Arab country will pay a sum of money in proportion to its yearly subscription to the Arab League. Arab countries which do not house Arab refugees at present such as Yemoh and Saudi Arabia will be required to pay more than their proportional share.

The Purchasing Committee of the Higher Council will meet this morning September 30th at Kasr El Aini to buy 40,000 bed sheets, 20000 coats, and 20000 blankets for the refugees. The Italian community in Egypt contributed 20 tons of cooking oil to the refugees, adds Al Misri, which remarks that the Italian Legation will be thanked by the Council when the oil is actually delivered.

Dr Ahmed Kadry Bey, the Under-Secretary for the Syrian Ministry of Public Health and Syria's representative at the Higher Council told Al Misri that he had submitted a report to the Council in which he said that the Arab refugees needed a minimum sum of LE 1,500,000 to meet their daily expenses. Each refugee needs one shilling and quarter for daily meals and half a shilling a day for other necessities such as soap, clothes, and house rent.

Naguib Bey Abu Shad, Transjordan's representative, disagreed with Kadry Bey, Syria's representative. He maintained that each Arab refugee needed LE 8 monthly. This means that LE 4,500,000 are needed monthly for the refugees.

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The Arab countries will not join alleged Eastern Defence Union unless the Palestinian question is settled first.

Al Ahram writes: "According to information gathered by our reporter in the Arab circles, the Arab countries are not prepared to consider joining the Eastern Defence Union at which Mr Bovin hinted in his U.N. speech, unless the Palestinian question is settled first to the satisfaction of the Arabs".

Egypt and the Marshall plan.

Al Ahram also writes: "The official American circles in Cairo expect that next year Egypt will be among the nations to benefit from the Marshall plan. This of course depends on Egypt's own desire to benefit from the plan".

Other news and articles pertaining to the Palestinian question.

Al Ahram reports that Al Sayed Jamal Al Husseini Vice-Chairman of the Arab Higher Committee of Palestine went to Naplus to try to persuade Soliman Tokan Bey, head of the town's municipality, to join the new Palestinian Cabinet. The gentleman refused.

Al Misri says that the Egyptian Ministry of Foreign Affairs received reports from Egypt's representatives in twelve countries concerning the final attitude which those countries propose to adopt towards the Palestinian question. The countries in question are: China, India, Ethiopia, Iran, Afghanistan, Turkey, Greece, the Union of South Africa, Sweden, Norway, Denmark, and Ecuador.

Al Mussawar alleges that England is still anxious to create Greater Syria. She will therefore encourage King Abdullah to keep the Arab Legion in Palestine and at the same time discourage by every means at her command the establishment of an Arab government in Palestine.

Under the headline: "England is unmasked", Al Mussawar also writes: "We do not think that any leader of the Arab League knew beforehand that Britain intended to declare herself in favour of Bernadotte's recommendations. Her approval of Bernadotte's report implies two things:

- 1 - America and England have reached full agreement on the future of Palestine.
- 2 - England has cashed the price for her support in some form or another, after she used Arab lives and money for her own ends.
- 3 - England wants to create Greater Syria at any price.
- 4 - We may expect Britain to attempt disbanding the Arab League.

Egypt of course lost more than any other Arab country through Britain's new attitude. She spent millions of pounds and sent a whole army to Palestine not to annex Palestine but to save it. England's attitude is therefore a terrible blow to Egypt."

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"A critical situation".

Under the above heading Al Mussawar comments on Mr Bevin's declaration in favour of Bernadotte's recommendations by saying: "The Arabs are facing a critical situation. Russia, America, England, and France, are openly in favour of the Zionists remaining in Palestine. We do not know why Britain and France have not yet recognized Israel, but it must be assumed that their approval of Bernadotte's report is tantamount to their recognition of Israel.

"The Arabs now have to adopt one of two policies: either to surrender to the wishes of the big nations, or continue the fight against them all! If in the end the Arabs find that they are forced to give in then they have to face three problems namely:

- 1 - The local reaction which must follow the return of the Arab armies to their countries.
- 2 - A possible dispute among the Arab countries because of the pro-British attitude adopted by some of them. Such a dispute may well result in the disintegration of the League.
- 3 - The effect of the slap in the face dealt by Britain to the Arab countries on Anglo-Arab relations. Some Arab governments may continue to respect their treaties of alliance with Britain, while others are bound to reject any form of alliance with that country".

The failure of the United Nations.

Al Misri's editorial deals with the present meeting of the U.N. Assembly. It says that never before in the history of mankind did an international organisation witness such strange behaviour by representatives of big nations. The Assembly has been in session for a week and has done nothing beyond listening to accusations made by the big powers against each other. "Is there no end to this comedy?" asks Al Misri which goes on to say that while the League of Nations managed to live for some years before it died, the United Nations Organisation is likely to die in its infancy.

The Sudanese question. The Sudanese do not want parliamentary rule, says Al Mussawar.

Al Mussawar devotes a whole page to photographs showing a big crowd of Sudanese in Port-Sudan demonstrating against the Legislative Assembly which is due to be elected shortly. It is interesting to note, however, that no policemen appear anywhere in the pictures except in one picture which shows Sudanese police standing outside the premises of the newspaper Al Noel. One photograph is of particular interest. It shows demonstrators carrying banners with such slogans as "Down with imperialism", and "Down with Condominium", but no policemen anywhere near the demonstrators.

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The world situation.
Press comments.

Al Mussawar prints an editorial in which it says that the world situation is very critical indeed but the Egyptian authorities do not seem to be worrying. Egypt is in an awkward position. She is spending money on an army in Palestine which is doing nothing at present. She either has to fight the big powers in Palestine or withdraw, but she has no other alternative; continues the paper. The prices of cotton are falling, and Egypt's financial position is by no means as strong as it used to be.

Egypt should have a well-defined foreign policy to be pursued in the event of a third world war breaking out. But above all a coalition Cabinet should be formed immediately to deal with this matter. No Egyptian can shoulder the burden alone, concludes Al Mussawar.

No cause for alarm, says Al Assas.

Al Assas, Nokrashi Pasha's mouthpiece, publishes an article under the headline: "No cause for alarm" in which it says the Egyptians should stop worrying about the possibility of another world war breaking out. Egypt can do nothing to stop the war if it has to take place. When it takes place, then it is time to worry.

Under the headline: "Neutrality and War", Al Ahram prints an editorial in which it asks if it is true that the Arabs are thinking of remaining neutral when a world war breaks out. "But Holland, Belgium and Greece wanted to be neutral in the last war and yet were not spared the ravishes of war. Foreign armies invaded their territories and their cities were bombed from the air" says the daily which concludes the article by urging the Egyptian and Arab governments to make preparations and decide what they should do if and when war breaks out.
